

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Applicant notes that the Examiner has not indicated that the drawings have been approved by the Official Draftsperson on a Form PTO-948. The Examiner is thus requested to indicate that Applicant's drawings are acceptable in the next Official Action.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-9 and 12-16.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claim 10 will have been amended, and newly submitted claims 17-21 will have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-21 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of claims 1-21 in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by ONIZUKA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,139). The Examiner takes the position that the ONIZUKA et al. patent discloses an electrical connector box including a case 12, 14 containing at least one inner compartment and a side opening provided in the case, a power distribution unit 30 covering the side opening, and a side frame engaging the

perimeter of the power distribution unit and connected to the case. The Examiner states that the side frame has been read on the projections of the case 12, 14.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of claims 10 and 11 on this ground, nevertheless, Applicant has amended independent claim 10 to clearly obviate the above noted ground of rejection in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. In this regard, Applicant notes that ONIZUKA et al. fails to show each and every element recited in amended claim 10. In particular, claim 10, as amended, sets forth an electrical connector box including, inter alia, a case having an inner compartment and a side opening, a power distribution unit inserted into and covering the side opening, and "a side frame engaging a perimeter of said power distribution unit and connected to said case, said side frame mounted on the perimeter of said power distribution unit to fix said power distribution unit onto said case".

This amendment is fully supported by the specification, including the claims and drawings, and no prohibited new matter has been added. In particular, Applicant's claimed invention provides an electrical connector box including a case, an inner compartment and a side opening in the case, a power distribution unit in the side opening, and a side frame that is mounted on the perimeter of the power distribution unit to fix the power distribution unit onto the case. Further, in Applicant's claimed invention, the side frame is provided as an element which is separate from the case. To assemble the electrical connector box of

P23495.A02

Applicant's claimed invention, the side frame is mounted to the PDU; and the side frame and PDU are fixed to the case. See at least Applicant's specification at paragraphs [0032], [0037] - [0039], and figure 1.

The ONIZUKA et al. patent discloses an electrical connection box including a case 12, 14 having a compartment and a side opening, and a PDU 52 in the compartment of the case. The case 12, 14 includes projections which engage grooves 32b in a heat radiation member 32. Further, it is noted that, while the Examiner has read the claimed compartments on elements 50 and 56 of the ONIZUKA et al. device, the ONIZUKA et al. patent discloses elements 50 and 56 as circuit boards, not compartments. Since the projections on the case 12, 14 of ONIZUKA et al. are members that are provided unitarily with the case, the projections are not separate elements from the case. Members that are not separate from the case cannot be mounted on the case since, by definition (*i.e.*, unitarily provided), members that are already part of the case cannot be then *mounted* on the case. Further, the projections that are provided unitarily with the case are not mounted on the perimeter of the PDU. Therefore, Applicant's claimed side frame can not be fairly read on the projections of the ONIZUKA et al. device. Accordingly, ONIZUKA et al. fails to disclose an electrical connector box including, inter alia, a case having an inner compartment and a side opening, a power distribution unit inserted into and covering the side opening, and "a side frame engaging a perimeter of said power distribution unit and connected to said case, said side

frame mounted on the perimeter of said power distribution unit to fix said power distribution unit onto said case”, as set forth in amended claim 10. Since the reference fails to show each and every element of the claimed device, the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over ONIZUKA et al. is improper and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WITEK et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,882,213). The Examiner takes the position that the WITEK et al. patent discloses an electrical connector box including a case 34, 70 containing at least one inner compartment and a side opening, a power distribution unit 50 covering the side opening, and a side frame 36, 82 engaging the perimeter of the power distribution unit.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner’s rejection of claims 10 and 11 on this ground, nevertheless, Applicant has amended independent claim 10 to clearly obviate the above noted ground of rejection in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. In this regard, Applicant notes that WITEK et al. fails to show each and every element recited in amended claim 10. In particular, claim 10, as amended, sets forth an electrical connector box including, inter alia, a case having an inner compartment and a side opening, a power distribution unit inserted into and covering the side opening, and “a side frame engaging a perimeter of said power distribution unit and connected to said case,

said side frame mounted on the perimeter of said power distribution unit to fix said power distribution unit onto said case”.

In particular, Applicant’s claimed invention provides an electrical connector box including a case, an inner compartment and a side opening in the case, a power distribution unit in the side opening, and a side frame that is mounted on the perimeter of the power distribution unit to fix the power distribution unit onto the case. Further, in Applicant’s claimed invention, the side frame is defined by a frame structure whose frame members form a frame opening. A portion of the circuit board is exposed through the frame opening in the side frame. See at least Applicant’s specification at paragraphs [0038] - [0039], and figures 1 and 5.

The WITEK et al. patent discloses a battery mounted junction box including a case with a compartment, a circuit board 50, a second half of a housing cover 36, and a second housing cover 82. See particularly the WITEK et al. patent, column 2, lines 26-27; column 3, line 71; and figure 1. As clearly shown in the figures, the second half of the housing cover 36 is a solid member including clips 38 which snap over the posts 40 on the first half of the housing cover 34 (column 2, lines 27-30). Since the second half of the housing cover 36 is a solid member without any central opening, the second half of the housing cover 36 does not define a frame and cannot be fairly read on Applicant’s claimed “side frame”. Further, the clips of the second half of the housing cover 36 engage the posts of first half of the

P23495.A02

housing cover 34; and the second half of the housing cover 36 does not engage the perimeter of the circuit board 50 of WITEK et al. Therefore, even assuming, arguendo, that Applicant's claimed PDU could be fairly read on the circuit board 50, the second half of the housing cover 36 does not engage the perimeter of the circuit board 50. Accordingly, WITEK et al. fails to disclose an electrical connector box including, inter alia, a case having an inner compartment and a side opening, a power distribution unit inserted into and covering the side opening, and "a side frame engaging a perimeter of said power distribution unit and connected to said case, said side frame mounted on the perimeter of said power distribution unit to fix said power distribution unit onto said case", as set forth in amended claim 10. Since the reference fails to show each and every element of the claimed device, the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over WITEK et al. is improper and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that dependent claim 11, which is at least patentable due to its dependency from claim 10 for the reasons noted above, recites additional features of the invention and is also separately patentable over the prior art of record based on the additionally recited features.

Applicant submits that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as recited in newly submitted claims 17-21. Further, claims 12-16, which the Examiner has indicated

P23495.A02

contain allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form as claims 17-21, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-21.

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In response to the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present invention.

In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that (as noted by the Examiner) "[n]o prior art has been found to anticipated or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter. Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the circuit board frame surrounding a perimeter portion of said printed circuit board, said circuit board frame including a central opening through which a central portion of said printed circuit board is exposed and the metal plate having a first surface being positioned against said circuit board frame", Applicant further wishes to make clear that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that patentability of these claims is also based on the totality of the features recited therein, which define over the prior art.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present amendment is proper and that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as recited in claims 1-21. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

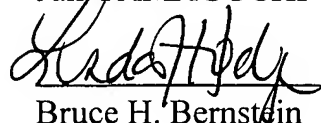
Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present amendment and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

Jun YAMAGUCHI

 Reg No. 47342
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

December 21, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191